

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE:

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Development of Iron Ore Deposits in Suiyuan

1. In February 1953 the Chinese Communist Ministry of Heavy Industry began developing iron ore deposits at the foot of Tach'ingshan (N 41- , E 107-), 50 kilometers southeast of Kuyang (N 41-08, E 110-10).¹ The actual mining was expected to begin in December 1953. The ministry regarded the exploitation of these deposits as one of the capital construction projects for 1953 and instructed designated personnel of the Steel and Iron Industry Bureau to form a committee for planning preparatory to the actual mining.
2. In the spring of 1953 the known extent of the deposit area was approximately 20 square kilometers. The average thickness of the deposit was between 20 and 50 meters. Over 1,000 workers were sent to the area to build highways and mine sheds. Orders were placed with the machine manufacturing plant in Kalgan (N 40-50, E 114-50) for the purchase of equipment. A cavalry battalion, sent by the Suiyuan-Mongolian Military Region, was garrisoning the mine area.
3. In the fall of 1950 the ministry had sent a team to determine the mineral potential of Suiyuan. This team discovered the Tach'ingshan iron ore deposits. In the fall of 1952 the Ministry of Geology² sent a prospecting team to make a careful study of these deposits. The studies of this team determined that the deposits when exploited would be the most extensive iron mines in North China. In the spring of 1953 the Ministry of Geology prospecting team was continuing mineral investigation in the Tach'ingshan area.

Development of Goldmines in Heilungkiang

4. In April 1953 the Chinese Communists were developing the Heihot'un (N 50-15,

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(N 50-15, E 127-28) area in order to exploit the Heilungkiang Goldmines. The development program was as follows:

- a. On 17 March 1953 telephone communication opened between Huma (N 51-33, E 126-41) and Moho (N 53-26, E 122-21).
- b. In May 1952 the Northeast Department of Industry sent three surveying teams to chart the highways along the shores of the Heilungchiang (N 48- , E 130-) and the accessibility of mineral deposits along these highways. In March 1953 construction began along the Aihun (N 49-59, E 127-28)-Chinshang (N 51-59, E 126-24) highway.
- c. On 19 March 1953 four additional surveying teams were ordered to explore the mineral deposits in the Huma and Moho areas.
- d. On 5 April 1953 the mining offices at Moho, Huma, and Nichiukou (N 43-48, E 127-35) were hiring laborers and building homes preparatory to large scale operations.

25X1A 1. [REDACTED] Comment. Presumably this refers to a range of mountains rather than to a single mountain.

25X1A 2. [REDACTED] Comment. According to a Peiping radio broadcast of 8 December 1952, the Ministry of Geology was established during 1952.

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